

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 00593 111157Z
ACTION NEA-10

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TO USIA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
SECSTATE WASHDC 5909

UNCLAS MANAMA 0593

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. LOCAL MEDIA REFLECTS INCREASING AWARENESS THAT THE US IS STRIVING HARD TO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE FORMULA TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. IN ADDITION, POST IS ALREADY NOTING PAYOFF FROM ARAB JOURNALISTS PROGRAM AS GRANTEE AL SHIRAWI HAS ALREADY PUBLISHED FOUR LONG FEATURES ALSO EMPHASISING US DETERMINATION TO PROMOTE A MIDDLE EAST ACCORD.

2. AKHBAR AL KHALEEJ EDITOR AL SHIRAWI'S LONG INTERVIEW WITH KISSINGER HAD EXTENSIVE QUOTES PRAISING SADAT AND STATING KISSINGER'S BELIEF THAT "THE AMERICANS CANNOT LET SADAT DOWN AFTER HIS COURAGEOUS INITIATIVE ... AND SHOULD PROVIDE EGYPT WITH ENOUGH ARMS TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE WITH ISRAEL." SHIRAWI CONCLUDED ONE ARTICLE BY STATING "SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE HAS MANAGED TO TOUCH THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE... IT HAS PROVED THAT ARABS ARE ADVOCATES OF PEACE".

3. A NEW WEEKLY ARABIC NEWSPAPER WAS LAUNCHED THIS PAST
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WEEK, AL MASEERAH, AND IT HAD ENCOURAGING WORDS FOR SADAT. EDITORIAL STATES, "THE SADAT PLAN IS COURAGEOUS AND ARABS (EVERYWHERE) SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IT CAN RESOLVE THE PROBLEM... IF WE (ARABS) WANT IT TO BE ... AND COOPERATE".

4. WRITING IN HIS WEEKLY COLUMN FOR AL MAWAKIF MAGAZINE, AHMED TALAAT URGED AMERICAN PRESSURE BE EXERTED ON ISRAEL

TOFFIND PEACE. OTHERWISE, HE WARNED, "ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL LEFTISTS WILL DOMINAB THE REGION".

5. ALI BADAWI NOTED TWO NEW AMERICAN STEPS IN HIS SADA AL USBUO ARTICLE THIS WEEK. FIRST HE RECOGNISED THE US EFFORT TO DRAW KING HUSSAIN INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT NOTED "...THE KING REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE UNTIL A FULL AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF NEGOTIATIONS... WHICH IS WHY THE US IS STRIVING TO FINALIZE THIS AGREEMENT". HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE AMERICAN DECISION TO PROVIDE ARMS TO EGYPT AS LEADING THE ISRAELIS "TO CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE US AND TO HARDEN THEIR BARGAINING POSITION".
TAYLOR

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Disposition Event:
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